ITEM 3. HIGHLIGHTS ██

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT

GUNMAN KILLS US CITIZENS IN CAIRO HOTEL

THE 26 OCTOBER SHOOTING OF SEVERAL FOREIGNERS IN CAIRO'S
SEMIRAMIS HOTEL RESTAURANT--THREE WERE KILLED, INCLUDING TWO
AMERICANS, AND FOUR WERE WOUNDED--APPEARS TO BE THE WORK OF A SINGLE
GUNMAN, ALTHOUGH THE INVOLVEMENT OF ISLAMIC EXTREMIST GROUPS REMAINS
A POSSIBILITY. ███████████████████████████████ THE
GUNMAN, SABER MUHAMMAD FARHAT ABU-QALA, WAS ABLE TO ENTER AND REMAIN
IN THE HOTEL RESTAURANT BECAUSE HE WAS RECOGNIZED AS A MUSICIAN WHO
HAD PERFORMED AT THE SEMIRAMIS. FARHAT APPARENTLY SAT QUIETLY AT A
TABLE, IDENTIFIED WESTERN PATRONS, AND THEN OPENED FIRE WITH A CZECH
AUTOMATIC PISTOL HE HAD CONCEALED IN HIS CLOTHING. ████████████
████████ FARHAT SHOUTED ISLAMIC INVOCATIONS AND SLOGANS ABOUT THE
PLIGHT OF BOSNIAN MUSLIMS BEFORE BEING ARRESTED BY POLICE. ██████

IN TALKS WITH US OFFICIALS, EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS HAVE STRESSED
THAT FARHAT WAS ACTING ON HIS OWN, WAS MENTALLY UNSTABLE, AND WAS
NOT AFFILIATED WITH AN ISLAMIC EXTREMIST GROUP. ████████████████
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FARHAT,
REPORTEDLY HAD NO ACCOMPLICES AND WILLINGLY SURRENDERED TO THE
POLICE, BOTH ATYPICAL OF EXTREMIST ATTACKS. ALSO, AS OF 29 OCTOBER,
NO ISLAMIC EXTREMIST GROUP HAD CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
ATTACK. EGYPT'S EXTREMIST GROUPS, SUCH AS THE ISLAMIC GAMAAT AND AL-
JIHAD, USUALLY PUBLICLY CLAIM CREDIT FOR THEIR ATTACKS, OPERATE IN
SMALL TEAMS, AND TRY TO ENSURE ESCAPE ROUTES. MOREOVER, THE GAMAAT
HAS ATTACKED EGYPT'S TOURIST INDUSTRY FOR MORE THAN A YEAR BUT HAS
SELDOM DELIBERATELY KILLED FOREIGN TOURISTS.

WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT AN EXTREMIST
GROUP WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHOOTINGS. IN AUGUST, FOR EXAMPLE, THE
GAMAAT THREATENED TO ATTACK US TARGETS IN EGYPT AND ELSEWHERE IN
RETALIATION FOR THE ARREST AND INDICTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES OF
SHAYKH UMAR ABD AL-RAHMAN, THE GAMAAT'S SPIRITUAL LEADER.